North Adams Water Treatment Facility
351 Pattison Road, North Adams, MA 01247
www.unitedwater.com

THIS REPORT CONTAINS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER.

PWSID # 1209000

In keeping with our commitment to the environment, this newsletter was printed on recycled paper.

WATER QUALITY INFORMATION

ISSUED JUNE 2010 CITY OF NORTH ADAMS

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT

DEAR CUSTOMER:

Your water system is operated as a partnership between United Water and the City of North Adams. Through this partnership, the City retains ownership of all the water facilities and sets the rates. United Water, as contract operator, provides the day-to-day management of the Water Treatment Facility. These organizations work together to provide you with water that meets—and often surpasses— all the health and safety standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP).

We regularly test water samples to be sure that your water meets the safety standards. All the test results are on file with the MA DEP, the agency that monitors and regulates drinking water quality in our state. The EPA and the MA DEP establish these regulations. They also require water suppliers to issue a Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) on an annual basis. This CCR contains important information about your drinking water. Please read it carefully and feel free to call us at 413.664.6690 if you have any questions about your water or your water service. You can also call the EPA Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791 with water-related questions. If you have specific questions about your water as it relates to your personal health, we suggest that you contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,

Tim Lescarbeau
Project Manager

ABOUT YOUR WATER SUPPLY

North Adams residents receive water from both surface water and ground water sources. Surface water sources include Mount Williams Reservoir and Notch Reservoir.

Your water is treated at the North Adams Water Treatment Facility (WTF) which treats raw surface water from two sources. The Notch Reservoir, on Reservoir Road, has a storage capacity of approximately 91 million gallons, a watershed area of approximately 2.5 square miles and is connected to Mount Williams Reservoir via a concrete overflow conduit. The Mount Williams Reservoir, on Pattison Road, has a storage capacity of approximately 200 million gallons and a watershed area of 1.75 square miles.

The MA DEP source ID numbers for our facilities are: Notch Reservoir (#1209000-01S) and Mount Williams Reservoir (#1209000-04S).

DRINKING WATER QUALITY TABLE **DEFINITIONS**

Action Level (AL): The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL): The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG): The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL): The highest level of disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG): The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contamination.

NA: Not applicable.

NTU: Nephelometric Turbidity Unit

pCi/L Picocuries per liter: Picocuries per liter. Measure of radioactivity.

ppb: One part substance per billion parts water or micrograms per liter.

ppm: One part substance per million parts water or milligrams per liter.

Treatment Technique (TT): A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in the water.

Turbidity: A measure of the cloudiness of water. Turbidity is monitored because it is a good indicator of the effectiveness of the filtration system.

>: This means “greater than.”

<: This means “less than.”

90th Percentile: Nine out of every ten homes sampled were below this level.

DRINKING WATER QUALITY TABLE

This water quality table shows how your drinking water compared to the standards set by the USEPA and the MADEP in 2009. Please note that yearly testing on all substances is not required. Therefore, for such substances, we have indicated the most recent year of required testing.

Primary standards (Directly related to the safety of drinking water) – We tested for many substances in the water and detected only those indicated in the Drinking Water Quality Table. Some of the information is technical in nature so we have provided you with definitions to help you better understand the information contained in this report.

Inorganic Chemicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Nitrate as nitrogen ppm (Plant 2009)	10	10	0.07	ND - .07	No	Erosion of natural deposits and fertilizer usage
Nitrate as nitrogen (Well 2009)	10	10	0.42	ND - 0.42	No	Erosion of natural deposits and fertilizer usage

	MCLG	AL	90th Percentile	Samples >AL	Violation	Likely Source
Lead ppb (2007)	0	15	5	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing
Copper ppm (2007)	1.3	1.3	0.2	0	No	Corrosion of household plumbing

Additional information about lead in drinking water: If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. United Water North Adams is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead.

Microbiologicals	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result**	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Turbidity NTU (plant)	NA	TT=1NTU	0.3	0.03 - 0.3	No	Soil runoff
Total coliforms	0	0	0	0 - 0	No	Naturally occurring
Distribution Disinfectant Residual ppm	NA	4	1.90	0.10 - 2.0	No	
TOC Removal Ratio (RAA)	NA	>/=1	0	ND - 0	No	

Radionuclides	MCLG	MCL	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
Gross alpha pCi/L (2005)	0	15	1.10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposit
Combined radium (226/228) pCi/L (2005)	0	5	0.10	NA	No	Erosion of natural deposit

*Highest results are based upon the highest single sample.
**Highest results are based upon the highest monthly results.

Disinfection Byproducts	MCLG	MCL	Average Result	Range of Results	Violation	Likely Source
THMs ppb running annual av.	NA	80	35.1	6.6 - 77.1	No	Disinfection by-product
(THMs: bromoform, bromodichloromethane, chlorodibromomethane, chloroform)						
HAA5 ppb running annual av.	NA	60	16.2	4.8 - 33.1	No	Disinfection by-product
(HAA5s: dibromoacetic acid, dichloroacetic acid, monobromoacetic acid, monochloroacetic acid, trichloroacetic acid)						

Secondary Standards Related to the aesthetic quality of drinking water. We detected the following in this category.

Substance	Guideline	Average Result	Highest Result*	Range of Results	Likely Source
Color CU	10	1	4	0 - 4	Naturally occurring
Corrosivity	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Non-corrosive	Naturally occurring
pH	6.5 - 8.5	7	7.73	6.64 - 7.73	Naturally occurring
Sodium ppm (plant)	50	5	NA	ND - 5	Naturally occurring

*Highest results are based upon the highest single sample.
Secondary standards are non-mandatory guidelines to assist public water systems in managing their drinking water for aesthetic considerations, such as taste, color and odor. These contaminants are not considered to present a risk to human health.
We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminates on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards.

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION

In 1996, Congress amended the Safe Drinking Water Act, creating the Source Water Assessment and Protection Program. Each state is required to identify and evaluate all sources of drinking water, assess the susceptibility of these sources to contamination and promote the protection of them.

UNITED WATER NORTH ADAMS

FACT

WATER TREATED IN 2009:

602 MILLION GALLONS

The MA DEP has completed a Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP) report for the North Adams Water Department. A susceptibility ranking of "high" was assigned to the North Adams system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. If a system is rated highly susceptible for a contaminant category, it does not mean a customer is, or will be, consuming contaminated drinking water. The rating reflects the potential for contamination of source water, not the existence of contamination. The complete SWAP report is available from the City by contacting Jay Green Chief Administrative officer at 413.662.3011 or from the MA DEP's Springfield Regional Office by contacting Kim Longridge at 413.755.2215.

BOTTLED WATER OR TAP WATER?

Sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals, and in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial contaminants -such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic contaminants -such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, and farming.

Pesticides and herbicides -which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic chemical contaminants -including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive contaminants -which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prescribe regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water that must provide the same protection for public health. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

HEALTH NOTE

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons, such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infections by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 800.426.4791.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. During April 1 to June 30, 2009, we did not monitor or test for synthetic organic compounds (SOCs) and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of our drinking water during that time. SOC monitoring occurred in July, November and December 2009, and no SOCs were detected during those sampling events.

If you would like more detailed information about your water, please contact Tim Lescarbeau, project manager, United Water, at 413.664.6690 or Jay Green Chief Administrative officer at 413.662.3011. Residents may also inquire about water system issues by attending the North Adams City Council. Meetings are held at City Hall on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. For additional information, contact the City Clerk at 413.662.3015.